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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 12, 2018

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The Honorable Rick Scott
Governor
State of Florida
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL, 32399

Dear Governor Scott,

I was deeply troubled by reports that Florida's Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam's office failed to review concealed weapons license applications using the National Instant Criminal Background Check System from approximately February 2016 through March 2017.

You also expressed that this report was "disturbing" and "concerning" and that you "expect everybody to be held accountable." As the chief executive of our state, I sincerely hope that you follow through, and I would suggest that you start tomorrow at your regularly scheduled cabinet meeting.

Despite the revelation of these reports on Friday, June 8, the current agenda for the cabinet meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning at 9:00 AM was last updated today, Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 2:11 PM, and yet it contains no entry for discussion of the Office of Inspector General's June 5, 2017 report, or any other item related to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Your failure to discuss this report, one that your spokesperson stated your office had not received, would be an enormous missed opportunity for you to begin to reestablish the honesty, accountability, and transparency that the people of Florida expect and deserve.

There is no political disagreement over the need to ensure that those who have proven themselves to be irresponsible and dangerous should not be granted licenses to carry concealed weapons in our streets.

The people of Florida waited 368 days to learn that Commissioner Putnam's office failed to conduct these background checks and improperly issued at least 291 concealed weapons licenses to disqualified individuals over the course of more than one year. They shouldn't have to wait until the next cabinet meeting for you to address this failure with the commissioner.

Sincerely,

Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS